

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: YANG *et al.*

Confirmation No.: 3991

Application No.: 10/823,065

Art Unit: 1771

Filed: 04/12/2004

Examiner: DAVIS, Jenna L.

Title: SUB-LAYER MATERIAL FOR
LAMINATE FLOORING

Atty Docket No.: D0932-00405

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF ALAIN YANG UNDER 37 CFR § 1.132

Sir:

I, Alain Yang, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am one of the named inventors of the above-identified patent application.
2. I have been employed as an engineer in the insulation industry for 12 years.
3. In the manufacturing process of the claimed product, the "scrap inorganic fibers containing formaldehyde-containing binder thereon" are scrap rotary fibers such as bindered building insulation scrap fibers and thus have a preset glass fiber matrix structure. Thus, upon information and belief, in addition to the fiber-to-fiber bonding provided by the plastic-containing bonding fibers, the preset glass fiber matrix contains additional glass fiber to glass fiber bonds. Thus, for a given amount of plastic-containing bonding fibers provided in the product, the claimed product has more loft and enhanced overall fiber matrix structural integrity compared to a product made with virgin rotary glass fibers or non-bindered scrap glass fibers, for example.
4. A micrograph of a sample insulation product comprising plastic-containing bonding fibers and scrap rotary fibers with phenol-formaldehyde binder is attached herein as EXHIBIT-A to illustrate the preset fiber matrix discussed in the previous paragraph. The

scrap rotary fibers used to make this sample were processed through a bale opener before being blended with the plastic-containing bonding fibers but because the scrap rotary fibers are in small clumps held together by the phenol-formaldehyde binder they maintain the preset structure. In the micrograph, the plastic-containing bonding fibers and the scrap rotary fibers in the fiber matrix are identified. The nodules and material on the scrap rotary fibers having brownish appearance are the phenol-formaldehyde binder material. The scrap rotary fibers are seen bonded among themselves in the preset fiber matrix by the phenol-formaldehyde binder. Several nodules of the binder material are also seen dispersed throughout the 3-dimensional fiber matrix of the scrap rotary fibers.

5. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/13/07

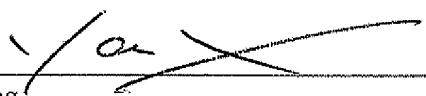

Alain Yang

EXHIBIT-A

Plastic Fiber
Binder

Rotary Fiber
with phenolic
binder

